

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 36

Encouraging the people of the United States to honor and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commending Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. AKIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FARR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. REYES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MOORE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MAJETTE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WAMP, Mr. CASE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WATSON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SABO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WU, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. FROST, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. DICKS, Mr. McKEON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. BALLANCE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. FORD, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WATT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Encouraging the people of the United States to honor and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commending Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery.

Whereas Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, issued a proclamation on September 22, 1862, declaring that on the first day of January, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free";

Whereas the proclamation declared "all persons held slaves within the insurgent States"—with the exception of Tennessee, southern Louisiana, and parts of Virginia, then within Union lines—"are free";

Whereas, for two and half years, Texas slaves were held in bondage after the Emancipation Proclamation became official and only after Major General Gordon Granger and his soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, were African-American slaves in that State set free;

Whereas slavery was a horrendous practice and trade in human trafficking that continued until the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution ending slavery on December 18, 1865;

Whereas the Emancipation Proclamation is historically significant and history is regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future;

Whereas one hundred and forty years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, African Americans have integrated into various levels of society; and

Whereas commemorating the 140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation highlights and reflects the suffering and progress of the faith and strength of character shown by slaves and their descendants as an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3            (1) recognizes the historical significance of the  
 4        140th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclama-  
 5        tion as an important period in the Nation's history;  
 6        and

7            (2) encourages its celebration in accordance  
 8        with the spirit, strength, and legacy of freedom, jus-  
 9        tice, and equality for all people of America and to  
 10       provide an opportunity for all people of the United  
 11       States to learn more about the past and to better  
 12       understand the experiences that have shaped the  
 13       Nation.

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